

NEW YORK DAY BY DAY



By Clyde Haberman and Laurie Johnston

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Not Amused How pornographic, insulting or otherwise offensive can video-game graphics be? Enough to warrant a protest, according to New York's chapter of the National Organization for Women, the American Indian Community House, Women Against Pornography and descendants of Gen. George Armstrong Custer.

Three new games, including "Bachelor Party" and "Custer's Revenge," inspired a demonstration yesterday outside the New York Hilton, where American Multiple Industries of Northridge, Calif., was showing off its new wares.

In "Custer's Revenge," a \$50 game the company says is for "adult entertainment on home video consoles," the general is crossing a desert, dodging arrows and clad only in neckerchief, hat and boots. If he dodges enough arrows, he reaches a young Indian woman. According to Robin Quinn of Women Against Pornography, the game "says that rape is not only a legitimate form of revenge but a legitimate form of entertainment."

The company prefers to think of the victory act as one between two consenting video images. "Besides, it's not that literal," said a spokesman for Stu Kesten, the company president. "With Atari figures, you're limited with how explicit you can get -they're cruder than cartoon characters."

Noting that the company was "getting calls from a lot of groups," he said that in California "Col. George Armstrong Custer 3d complained, on behalf of the Custer family, that the general had been maligned." Clyde Haberman Laurie Johnston

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